Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 08977 131047Z

50
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 MC-02 ACDA-19

RSR-01 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 L-03 /147 W
---------- 074412
R 130954Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5359
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8977

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ESTC JA CH
SUBJ:JAPANESE CONCERNS OVER CHINA DIFFERENTIAL

REF: A. STATE 132879; B. TOKYO 8171

SUMMARY: ECONCOM/MIN PRESENTED DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO JAPANESE REQUESTS RE CHINA DIFFERENTIAL ON COMPUTERS TO FONOFF JULY 11. DIRGEN MIYAZAKI GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH RESPONSE, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT CONFINING MEETING TO TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. PRESS REPORTS AND MIYAZAKI'S COMMENTS INDICATE GOJ UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE TO OBTAIN COCOM APPROVAL FOR EXCEPTIONS REQUESTS COVERING PRODUCTS WHICH MAY BE SOLD AS RESULT OF ELECTRONICS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION IN PEKING. END SUMMARY.

1. ECONCOM/MIN CALLED ON DIRECTOR GENERAL MIYAZAKI OF FONOFF'S ECONCOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU JULY 11 TO DELIVER AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINING DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE (REFTEL A) TO JAPANESE REQUESTS CONCERNING CHINA DIFFERENTIAL ON COMPUTERS. MIYAZAKI GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH US RESPONSE BUT SOMEWHAT CONCERNED BY US POINT THAT BILATERALS ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE TECHNICAL RATHER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 08977 131047Z

THAN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. HEAD OF FONOFF INTL TRADE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

DIV, KATAYAMA, WHO ALSO ATTENDED MEETING, SAID THAT GOJ WOULD DO ITS BEST TO BE IN POSITION TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR ITS REQUESTS AT ANY MEETING, BUT THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO PRESENT JAPANESE POLITICAL CONCERNS. ECONCOM/MIN ASKED WHY GOJ HAD REQUESTED EXPERTS MEETING IF PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS POLITICAL CONCERNS. KAYAYAMA HAD NO ANSWER, BUT CONTINUED TO EXPRESS HIS RESERVATIONS ABOUT DISCUSSION CONFINED TO TECHNICAL FACTORS.

2. MIYAZAKI NOTED THT FONOFF VERY ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN EXCEPTIONS AT COCOM FOR PRODUCTS WHICH PRC DECIDED TO PURCHASE FROM THOSE EXHIBITED RECENTLY IN PEKING. IF COCOM APPROVAL COULD NOT BE SECURED, SOME PARTIES HAD THREATENED TO FILE SUIT AGAINST THE GOJ. THIS WOULD REVEAL CD WHICH, FOR OBVIOUS POLITICAL REASONS, GOJ WAS HIDING. SOME GOJ OFFICIALS WERE EVEN URGING COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM COCOM IF EXCEPTIONS NOT APPROVED. ECONCOM/MIN EMPHASIZED THAT USG HAD DONE GREAT DEAL TO MEET GOJ CONCERNS ABOUT CD. WE HAD NARROWED LIST OF ITEMS COVERED BY CD FROM 45 TO ONLY ONE AT PRESENT. WE HAD AGREED TO EXPERTS MEETING AS SOON AS WAS POSSIBLE FOR US, AND HAD NOTED THAT CONCERNED AGENCIES GIVING PRIORITY ATTENTION TO JAPANESE BROCHURES ON ITEMS EXHIBITED IN PEKING.

3. MIYAZAKI SAID IN CONCLUSION THAT HE WOULD STUDY US AIDE MEMOIRE CAREFULLY, AND WOULD COMMENT ON SUGGESTED DATES FOR EXPERTS MEETING SHORTLY.

4. MEANWHILE, RE GOJ EXCEPTIONS REQUESTS, PRESS REPORTS CLAIM THAT PRC INITIALLY DECLINED TO DISCUSS PURCHASE OF COCOM ITEMS SHOWN AT MEDICAL & ELECTRONICS EXHIBITION IN PEKING (WHICH CLOSED JULY 4). HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF JAPANESE "POSITIVE APPROACH" MADE TO CHINESE, BASED ON WHAT REPORTED TO BE POSITIVE GOJ STAND ON SALE OF THESE ITEMS TO CHINESE, PEKING AGREED TO NEGOTIATE. SALES TALKS ON 12 OR 13 (UNSPECIFIED) ITEMS ARE REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO COMPLETION.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS TO US TO BE DOUBTFUL THAT GOJ
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PAGE 03 TOKYO 08977 131047Z

WILL BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE MUCH NEW TECHNICAL INFORMATION AT ANY EXPERTS MEETING. GOJ HAS HAD DIFFICULTY DOING SO BEFORE AND KATAYAMA'S RESERVATIONS INDICATE HE NOT VERY CONFIDENT ABOUT FINDING NEW INFORMATION TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL BASIS FOR HIS ARGUMENTS. RE GOJ EXCEPTIONS REQUESTS, REPORTS FROM PEKING IN PARA 4 ABOVE AND MIYAZAKI'S COMMENTS INDICATE GOJ COULD FIND ITSELF IN AN EXTREMELY AWKWARD AND POLITICALLY DIFFICULT POSITION IF COCOM DOES

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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NOT APPROVE.
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